

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

12 April 2017

Mr. Parry Klassen
East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition
1201 L Street
Modesto, CA 95354

Mr. Michael Wackman
San Joaquin & Delta Water Quality Coalition
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EAST SAN JOAQUIN WATER QUALITY COALITION AND SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY AND DELTA WATER QUALITY COALITION – MONITORING PROGRAM QAPP UPDATES

Thank you for submitting the 13 February 2017 request to amend the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition and the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition (Coalitions) Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). The requests for both Coalitions are identical and propose to replace Appendices I through X with a single appendix, Appendix I (Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Surface Water and Sediment Sampling) and update the Field Sampling Procedure relating to low flow and no flow conditions. Staff reviewed the field SOP and determined that the proposed amendment will give clear guidance to field samplers to collect high quality and representative water and sediment samples.

The field SOP amendments adequately justify that a representative water sample cannot be collected from non-contiguous waterbodies as any sampling attempt can introduce suspended sediments and sediment-bound pesticides. Chemical constituents are also more likely to concentrate in shallow isolated pools than in samples collected under normal flowing conditions. In addition, the SOP update clarifies that collecting water samples from shallow contiguous waterbodies is contingent upon water depth that allows fully submerging the sampling bottle without disturbing the sediment bottom. Overall, the decision-making process outlined in the field SOP and update of the QAPP with current practices will enable the Coalitions to collect high quality and representative samples.

Based on the information provided in the Coalitions' amendment request and staff's evaluation, I approve the Coalitions' request to update their monitoring programs. If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Yared Kebede at yared.kebede@waterboards.ca.gov or at (916)-464-4828.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Pamela C. Creedon
Executive Officer

cc: Dr. Michael Johnson, MLJ-LLC
Melissa Turner, MLJ-LLC